OUR LADY OF GRACE- PARISH DIRECTORY

Church Address:
15 George Waterman Rd
Johnston, RI 02919

Mailing Address:
4 Lafayette St
Johnston, RI 02919

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 am—3:30 pm
Friday—9 am—Noon

PARISH WEBSITE
Ourladyofgraceri.org

PARISH OFFICE
Reverend Peter J. Gower
Pastor
ourladyofgraceri@aol.com

Mrs. Mary Mancini
Office Administrator
mmancini@ourladyofgraceri.org
(401) 231-2220 ext 3

Mr. Joseph Quartino
Building Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Del Gigante
Music Director

Mrs. Frances DiBiasio
Funeral Administrator
(401) 231-7334
(401) 451-0359

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Mrs. Joanne Burley, Director
jburley@ourladyofgraceri.org
(401) 231-2220 ext 2

Religious Education Office Hours:
Monday—Wednesday
9:00 am until 2:00 pm

Thursday
9:00 am until 1:00 pm

SOCIAL MEDIA—CONNECT WITH US

Facebook
@olgrri2020

Instagram
olg_ri

Our Lady of Grace Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 1
4:00 pm Peter Lombardi (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

Sunday, August 2
8:30 am Anthony Bianco by Rudy and Sandra Branca

The Altar Breads used this week and the Sanctuary Lamp lit this week are
In Memory of Pasquale Grande

Monday, August 3
8:00 am Americo D’Amico (Birthday Remembrance) by Family

Tuesday, August 4
8:00 am In Loving Memory of Steven J. Roberts by Sisters Laraine and Elaine

Wednesday, August 5
8:00 am Nico Ventetuolo (Birthday Remembrance) by Grandparents

Saturday, August 8
4:00 pm Joseph Achille (2nd Anniversary) by daughter Liz and Family

Anthony Spremulli & Louise Spremulli Chiaramonte

Dee County (month’s mind mass)

Sunday, August 9
8:30 am Patricia D’Andrea by Family

10:30 am Fabiano & Angelina, Milano & Maria,

MASS SCHEDULE

The current Mass Schedule is as follows:

Monday—Wednesday 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am 10:30 am

Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00 pm (Saturday)

Confessions (Saturday) 3:00-3:30 pm

Holy Rosary (Saturday) 3:30 pm
From the Pastor’s Desk . . .

It is difficult to remain positive and hopeful.

My faith tells me that no matter how bad things seem to be, God is in charge and we will get through this. I also ask myself what are we supposed to learn from all of this? I find my hope once again in the words of Jesus in the scripture. There are good seeds as well as weeds. There is the loving sower, Jesus, but also the evil one, the Devil! If we are people of faith (the good seed) connected to the sower, Jesus, and make the effort to avoid the weeds sown by the Devil, we will produce a bountiful harvest of love, compassion and mercy!

There are multiple examples of love, compassion and mercy being sown on a daily basis in the midst of this pandemic! The challenge for us is to keep our ears open, our eyes focused and our hearts willing so that we can share the harvest of good news that Jesus continues to preach and respond accordingly! AMEN!

Father Peter

Sausage & Pepper Sandwich Dinner

The weekend of August 8th and 9th, we will be preparing a Sausage and Pepper Sandwich Dinner for your enjoyment.

For a donation of $10.00, you will receive a large and delicious sausage and pepper sandwich, along with the sandwich you will receive a bag of chips and wine biscuits— all for just $10.00!

After each of the 3 Masses on that weekend, the Sandwiches will be available for pick up at Festival Field, Building 1.

Drive down Lafayette Street, cut through the back of the church parking lot, (2 lanes please) cross over Sheridan Street into Festival Field, 2 lanes. People will be there to direct you, help you and take your orders.

You can stop by the white ticket booth behind the church to get your feast food tickets—10 tickets for a donation of $8.00.

PANDEMIC 2020 MEMORIAL

What have we learned?

Community will be one of the benefits to come out of this whole, awful mess. As a parish, we are Easter people who emphasize triumph of hope and life over fear. We found inventive ways to nourish our souls and to keep our faith open. We need to memorialize this as a parish, so that future generations can learn from what we endured. I would like a monument that gives testimony to our strength.

We are therefore establishing a unique monument in our church’s memorial garden space, overseen by our Blessed Mother.

The top of the memorial will read as follows:

Pandemic 2020

DOORS CLOSED—HEARTS OPEN

OLG STRONG—90.1 FM—FAITH MATTERS

REV. PETER J. GOWER, PASTOR

Beneath this inscription, we believe we will have space for approximately 100 names. We are asking for a minimum donation of $200.00 to add your name to the memorial.

If you have any questions at all regarding the memorial, please do not hesitate to call the parish office at (401) 231-2200. You can send your information in with your donation or visit our website at Ourladyofgraceri.org

If you know you want to participate in this once in a lifetime memorial, you can mail your donation with your telephone number and we will call you to verify the spelling of your name, or you can come into the parish office with your donation.
For this week’s theme, I am literally staring at the stained glass windows in our church and wondering how this all started. Not just here at Our Lady of Grace, but in all churches of all denominations. Why stained glass? In researching this on the Internet, I sought answers to why Catholic churches, especially the older ones like cathedrals, have long been known for their ornate and elaborate stained glass windows. I found some good information at www.cumberlandstainedglass.com in an article written there by Bryan Lerew. Bryan explains that in the early days of the church, most people could not read. When the church wanted to communicate Bible stories and ideas to people, besides a priest reading holy scripture from the Bible, a stained glass window easily conveyed scriptural ideas through specific scenes depicted.

If you were an illiterate farm boy or girl living in the Middle Ages, you and your family would go to the Catholic church in town for Mass. You would hear scripture with your ears while marveling at the scenes depicted on the windows overhead. There, for example, you might see baby Jesus surrounded by parents Joseph and Mary, an angel above them, the three wise men, shepherds and farm animals. Those windows brought Biblical stories to life.

Church windows first used stained glass as far back as the fourth century, but it took 800 years before it became a legitimate and honored art form. Churches around this time, being built in what is known as the Gothic architectural style, had wide spaces available for their windows. To fill those spaces, artists would blow glass into various forms and sizes and then, like a puzzle, assemble them together with lead frames to create dynamic visual scenes for all to see.

Besides showing Biblical scenes, stained glass windows were also prized for the way light shone through them, creating interesting sights within churches. The legendary Parisian Notre Dame Cathedral, built in 1345, has a giant stained glass window that creates the impression of a rose of light, often referred to as “a window to the heavens” for its stunning beauty. Thankfully, this survived the destructive fire there in April of last year but the church remains closed for repairs.

If you would like to see some good examples of stained glass church art, visit this website: https://www.pinterest.com/believe7771/catholic-stained-glass. While all church stained glass windows mainly depict Christ, the Parables, the Apostles and Disciples and Bible stories from the Old Testament, certain subjects have a greater emphasis placed on them in Catholic stained glass windows.

Catholic stained glass and artwork provides some images of Jesus that are unique to the Catholic faith. These include the Sacred Heart of Jesus shown in stained glass as a flaming heart shining with divine light, as a heart pierced by a lance, surrounded by a crown of thorns or bearing a cross and bleeding. Sometimes the stained glass image is of Jesus with his wounded hands pointing at the heart.

Other popular stained glass images include the life of the Virgin Mary and her Assumption at the end of her life and the Holy family featuring the child Jesus, the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph. Other images explore the lives of many of the Saints.

Perhaps if we ask Fr. Gower nicely, he might be inspired to use OLG’s stained glass windows as a topic for one of his homilies or just as a special presentation for all those interested. I know I would be.
**OLG Bocce League**

**Week 6 - 7/27/20 - Games & Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Game 1</th>
<th>Game 2</th>
<th>Game 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jersey Boys</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>v-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grasso’s Crew</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>v-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gower’s Group</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>v-</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur’s Gang</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
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**Schedule for Monday, August 3, 2020**

- **Gower’s Group vs. Grasso’s Crew**
  - 5:30 pm
- **Jersey’s Boys vs Arthur’s Gang**
  - 6:45 pm

**Weekend Collections**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 26, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekend Collection</td>
<td>$3242.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Giving</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3587.00</strong></td>
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**The Budget Process**

Every year the parish must set a budget for the Fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30. This budget reflects the needs and vision of the parish. All funds spent on parish activities and to further the mission of the parish are approved before the fiscal year begins. This budget gives us a road map to follow and does not allow for many unexpected expenses. With the help of our parish bookkeeper and finance council I have prepared and submitted to the Diocese of Providence our budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021.

**Peter’s Pence Collection**

The Peter’s Pence Collection is taken up worldwide each year to support the most disadvantaged, including victims of war, oppression, natural disaster and disease. Due to the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, those wishing to provide financial support for the Peter’s Pence Collection may do so in alternative ways this year only. Parishioners may submit their contributions electronically by visiting www.peterspence.va, by means of the regular offertory envelopes to the parish during Mass or by sending contributions directly to the Diocesan Fiscal Office. Checks should be made payable to the Diocesan Service Corporation and be clearly marked “Peter’s Pence Collection” on the notation line. The mailing address is:

Diocesan Service Corporation
Fiscal Office
1 Cathedral Square
Providence, RI 02903

The Peter’s Pence Collection supports the Pope’s philanthropy by giving the Holy Father the means to provide emergency assistance to those in need because of natural disaster, war, oppression and disease.

One More Tim – A Big THANKS to Rocky Railway Participants

It’s time to thank all those who were involved in ROCKY RAILWAY VACATION BIBLE CAMP which was held in Fioretti Hall from July 13 through the 17th. Big Thank You to Jackie La Salandra and Rita Poli who were with me each and every day preparing the Hall for the Camp, and believe me it was many days. Thanks also to Ruth Ventetuolo and to Debbie Fleming who helped whenever their schedules allowed them to.

I would like to thank our station leaders. They are Sing and Play and Rocky Wrap-up: Rita Poli and her helper Jill Carline; Bible Adventures: Mia Swenson and her helper Dylan Lyons; Imagination Station: Jackie La Salandra and her helper Brooke Carline; Snack Station: Ruth Ventetuolo and her helpers Dolores Bressette and Danielle Lyons; Kid Vid Cinema: Debbie Fleming and her helper Bobby Fleming; Locomotion Games: Mackenzie Hanna and her helper Melanie Capraro; and Registration: Diane Lyons.

Thank you to our teen Crew Leaders and to all our Crew Members. It was a great week learning about the Power of Jesus through song, dance, Bible stories, games, etc. Thanks also to the moms and dads for sharing their children with us for the week. Trust Jesus!!
Our Lady of Grace
Feast of La Madonna Della DiFesa
September 10—September 13, 2020

You are still able to join these raffles.

**The Grand Raffle** (with a top prize of $5,000.00.) Donation of $50.00 per ticket.

**The Jewelry Raffle** (with a top prize—a set of 1 Ct Diamond Earrings set in White Gold valued at $3,000.00.) A donation of $25.00 for 3 tickets.

**The Patriots Raffle** (a 2012 Multi-Signed Panel Ball with signatures of both Tom Brady and Julian Edelman as well as others.) Donation of $5.00 for 3 tickets.

**The Television Raffle** (this raffle’s First Prize is a 70” Roku Ultra HD Smart TV. The Second Prize is a 55” Ultra HD Smart TV.) Donation of $5.00 for 3 tickets.

**Major Donor** you can still be a Major Donor (which includes your name or the name of a loved one or business on the Major Donor Board) for a donation of $100.00.

These tickets can be bought online, at our website - [Ourladyofgraceri.org](http://Ourladyofgraceri.org)

**Food Tickets.** This weekend, and all weekends after Mass, you can pull around to the back of the church near the garages to the white booth and purchase your Presale Food Tickets. A book of 10 tickets for a donation of only $8.00! You can purchase as many as you like. Get ready for some fabulous food at our feast!

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**FEAST FOOD**

**Our Lady of Grace Feast Menu—2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plates</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macaroni &amp; Meatballs</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowl of Macaroni</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chowder</td>
<td>4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chowder &amp; 3 Clamcakes</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofrítto</td>
<td>8.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tripe</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arancini (Rice Balls)</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sandwiches**

- Meatball Sandwich                        | 6.00  |
- Meatball & Pepper Sand.                  | 7.00  |
- Eggplant Sandwich                        | 6.00  |
- Sausage Sandwich                         | 7.00  |
- Sausage & Pepper Sand.                   | 8.00  |
- Sausage & Rabe Sand.                     | 8.00  |
- Rabe Sandwich                            | 6.00  |
- Rabe & Provolone                         | 7.00  |
- Hamburger/Cheddarburger                  | 5.00  |
- Hot Dog                                  | 3.00  |

**Sides**

- French Fries                             | 4.00  |
- Clam Cakes 1/2 Dozen                     | 5.00  |
- 1 Dozen                                  | 8.00  |
- Doughboys                                 | 5.00  |
- Pizza                                    | 2.00  |
- Mini Spinach Pies                        | 3.00  |

**Pastries**

- Apple Crisp                              | 4.00  |
- With Ice Cream                            | 5.00  |
- Ice Cream Small                           | 2.00  |
- Large                                    | 3.00  |
- Cookies, Cakes & Pastries                | See Pastry For prices |

**Beverages**

- Soda                                     | 1.00  |
- Bottled Water                            | 1.00  |
- Hot Coffee                               | 1.00  |
- Iced Coffee                              | 2.00  |

**Beer & Wine**

- Bottled Beer                             | 4.00  |
- Wine                                     | 3.00  |
- Wine Cooler                              | 3.00  |

**Sunday**

- Lasagna dinner with salad                | $9.00 |

We may be required to add or subtract items according to availability.

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**Feast Notice**

On Tuesday, August 4, 2020, at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall, all Feast Food Captains are invited to a meeting at which time Fr. Gower will discuss what the 2020 Feast will look like. Joe Quartino and Jo-anne Burley our co-chairpersons have been working with Father Gower to create a festival atmosphere that will be safe and respectful of all state regulations. We are looking to this Annual Celebration in honor of Our Lady under the title of Madonna della Difesa.
OUR LADY OF GRACE

The annual feast in honor of “La Madonna della Difesa”

The annual feast in honor of “La Madonna della Difesa” will take place from September 10 to September 13 at Our Lady of Grace Church located on George Waterman Road, Johnston, RI. On Sunday, September 13th, there will be a 10:30 am Mass followed by the traditional procession of La Madonna della Difesa.

Events planned for the celebration call for food each day/night under the tent. The tent will become a large restaurant to enjoy food, beer and wine, as well as listen to music each evening. We will feature Ambrosiani on Sunday. There will be no rides or games. Our annual raffles are being held through the mail. You can obtain your food tickets after every Mass behind the Church in the white booth. Right now the presale price is $8.00 for 10 tickets. We will of course call the raffles during the feast.

The feast was brought to Johnston by a small group of Italian men and women in 1908. These people came from a small mountain top town called Casacalenda, located in the province of Campobasso in the region of Italy called Molise. Casacalenda is located about 150 miles northeast of Naples.

This same feast is still celebrated in Montreal, Canada as well as in Italy. The feast is celebrated on the second Sunday of September here in Johnston, while the Italo Canadians celebrate it on the second Sunday of August. It is celebrated in Italy always on the 4th Sunday of September, the original Feast day. We in America and in Canada had to change the date because of weather conditions.

History tells us that certain unexplainable events started to take place in Casacalenda around 1870 on a hillside called “La DiFesa” which was once the site of an ancient church called Santa Maria di Avellana which was destroyed in 1456 by an earthquake.

Then, in 1891 the people of Casacalenda started to venerate the ancient hillside site called La Difesa. With diocesan support and approval, a sanctuary was built and called Il Sanctuario Della Madonna della Difesa in honor of the Blessed Mother, thus we have the title La Madonna della Difesa. La Madonna being an Italian expression meaning Mother of God and Difesa the name of the section of town in Casacalenda, Italy. On October 31, 1962 by a decree from Bishop Costanzo of Larino, Italy, the Difesa Sanctuary was made an official Diocesan Sanctuary.